Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

CITY, TOWN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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6 REPRESE	NTATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS	. ,	
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located within the Smith Park Architectural District are twenty-two major buildings, sixteen of which are architecturally significant, several parking lots, and the only "public green" in the busy center of Jackson. Important architectural styles, representing the period 1840 to 1940, include the Greek, Gothic, Jacobethan, Neo-Classical and Colonial revivals, the Second Empire, and the Art Deco. Large commercial, religious, and governmental buildings are predominant within the district and, by their scale, proportion, and excellence of design, give the area a pronounced monumentality distinct from the surrounding blocks.

Smith Park itself, located in the center of the district, is flanked by the block occupied by the Governor's Mansion to the south and by another complete block to the north. Also included within the district are all properties on North West Street, on East Capitol Street, and on North Congress Street, which face these three blocks. The northern perimeter of the district is protected by the grounds of the New State Capitol, a National Register property.

Lining the south side of East Capitol Street within the district are five important buildings, each of which is a locally significant statement of its particular period and style. The Post Office and Federal Building (1) is a large, five-story, thirteen-bay Art Deco structure built of concrete with a sandstone veneer. Designed by the Jackson firm of Hull and Malvaney, the building is typical of the official governmental architecture of the 1930s. Relief and variety are given to the Spartan design by the sculpture detail in the belt-and-string courses and in many spandrel areas. Of special interest are the freestanding aluminum lighting fixtures supported by tapering legs. St. Andrews Episcopal Cathedral (2), located east of the Federal Building across South West Street, is an important example of the Late Gothic Revival architecture popular in ecclesiastical design during the early twentieth century. The church was constructed in 1903 under the supervision of P. H. Weathers, a local architect, and restored in 1930 after a fire gutted the interior. Flanking the gabled-end nave, and behind a three-bay open porch, are two towers which form the principal elevation. The western tower, which accommodates a belfry, is much higher than its counterpart and lends a picturesque, asymmetrical appearance to the facade. To complement the Episcopal cathedral, Sanquinet, Staats and Hedrick of Fort Worth, Texas, the architects of the neighboring ten-story Lamar Life Building (3), employed a host of Gothic motifs and a high crenellated clock tower in their novel design for Jackson's first "skyscraper." Slender ribs, dividing each elevation into a system of bays, terminate at a blind arcade which is topped by an upper balustrade detailed with stone tracery and prominent pinnacles. In 1968 a series of modern store fronts, which detract from the unity of the composition, were installed on the first level. The block is completed by Mississippi Bank and Trust (4), an imposing Neo-Classical Revival structure designed in 1924 by Philip S. Mayre of Atlanta, Georgia. A richly detailed colonnade of engaged Ionic columns, supporting a broad entablature complete with classicistic cresting, surrounds the structure on the north and east elevations. McRae's Department Store (5), located east of the bank

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED	APR 2	3 1976	

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 2

across South Congress Street, is a six-story commercial structure built at the beginning of the twentieth century. While the pedestrian level has been remodeled to accommodate large display windows, the second floor retains a robust terra-cotta front with freely designed composite pilasters and enriched foliated motifs reminiscent of Louis Sullivan's architecture. The upper floors are divided into a six-bay glazed arcade which visually supports a projecting string course, a final range of windows, and an elaborate cornice topped by cresting.

Facing the five structures lining the south side of Capitol Street is the 1841 Greek Revival Governor's Mansion (6), whose grounds, surrounded by a high iron and brick fence, occupy a city block. Constructed of brick, the Mansion is a large five-bay, two-story brick building dominated by a semicircular Corinthian portico placed on the center axis. Beginning in 1972, the historic portion of the Mansion underwent a selective restoration. With the completion of the project in April, 1975, the property was designated a National Historic Landmark.

From East Capitol Street to Mississippi Street, the district follows North Congress Street to include the Emporium Building (7), a well proportioned but architecturally uninteresting mercantile structure now owned and occupied by the First National Bank; the Thompson Building (8), a two-story early twentieth century brick structure which retains its original pilasters and window cornices on the second floor; and the thirteen-story Banker's Trust Plaza (9). Constructed in 1929, Banker's Trust was designed by the popular local architect, N. W. Overstreet. Abstract motifs and geometric forms characteristic of the Art Deco style are cast in a sandstone veneer on the ground and top levels of the building. The intermediary wall surfaces, which continue the articulation of the ground floor, are faced with brightly colored orange yellow brick.

Occupying the block behind the Governor's Mansion is Smith Park, a valuable and much appreciated open space measuring 320 feet square. Recent additions to the park which include a tall sound baffle and artificial stream have crowded the original appearance of the park. Several commemorative monuments, which date from the early twentieth century, remain undisturbed. The W. D. Davis Memorial, consisting of four Tuscan columns supporting an open trellis that shelters a stone urn, is the most prominent and notable of these.

With the exceptions of the Magnolia Federal Savings and Loan Building (10), a mediocre six-story commercial structure dating from 1963 and the neighboring Spencer-Murphee building (11), the buildings which adjoin the Park contribute to the architectural distinction of the district. The J. V. Hough House (12), built between 1912 and 1915, is a fine expression of the Colonial Revival style. Surrounding the structure on the west and north elevations is a two-tiered veranda with Ionic columns which support a wide bracketed cornice. The house is frame, five bays wide, two-and-a-half stories high, and designed according to the traditional principles of symmetry and restraint. In contrast, the Galloway House (13) at 304 North Congress Street illustrates

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED

APR 231976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE :

the pleasant effects of a varied and picturesque Second Empire design. W. J. McGee, a local contractor-architect, constructed the frame dwelling in 1889. Prominent features of the design include two steeply gabled pavilions separated by a four-story tower with arched windows and tin Mansard roof, and the treatment of windows with wooden label mouldings and eared architraves. Opposite the Galloway House stands the imposing Galloway Methodist Church (14), which was begun in 1913 with plans supplied by Reuben Harrison Hunt of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Characteristic of the Neo-Classical Revival, the church is housed in a temple-like form, the most prominent feature of which is the giant portico of Tuscan columns supporting a full entablature and pediment. Brick and sandstone were used to construct the original section as well as the large north wing which was added in 1953.

Two buildings that front the grounds of the State Capitol rather than Smith Park complete the district on North Congress and Mississippi streets. The first is the Methodist Building (15), a two-story brick, glass, and steel structure designed in 1957 in an approximation of the Miesian style. Of greater architectural interest is the State Executive Building (16) at 401 Mississippi Street. Constructed of buff colored brick in 1924, the building was designed by local architect, N. W. Overstreet, who was responsible for much of the district's design quality. In this building, the Neo-Classical Revival takes on a Mediterranean quality through the repetition of arched windows and reveals and the addition of a green tile roof. The facade is treated with columns set between slightly projecting end pavilions and a broad, overhanging cornice.

The remaining structures within the district are on North West Street and either face or adjoin Smith Park. Located at the corner of Yazoo and North West streets is the Consolidated American Life Insurance Building (17), a templefront Greek Revival structure built in 1844 for the congregation of the First Baptist Church. As with many other churches of the period, the facade features a portico in antis which supports a simple entablature and pediment. The side elevations are treated with pilasters resting on a wide watertable. Although it has not retained its original octagonal cupola, the building enjoys a large measure of its original exterior integrity. Central High School (18), which was built in 1925, is a locally valuable example of the Jacobethan Revival which was considered so appropriate for academic buildings. Architect C. H. Lindsley of Jackson, while concentrating specific Jacobean and Elizabethan references in the central pavilion, allowed the more functional classroom wings to remain unadorned except for the sandstone quoins surrounding the large window areas. Narrow, crenellated towers flank the entrance with its characteristic four-centered, flat-pointed arch. A large stone bay window and a curvilinear gable complete the center pavilion. On the corner of North West Street and (continued)

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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RECEIVED NOV 2 4 1975

DATE ENTERED

APR 231976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 4

Amite Street stands St. Peter's Cathedral (19), a late Gothic Revival brick structure designed in 1897 by P. H. Weathers. A thinly buttressed tower, with pinnacles and a prominent octagonal spire, is partially let into the body of the church, whose most distinguished feature is the regular row of Gothic windows set between stick-like buttresses.

Located south of the cathedral is St. Peter's rectory (20), an uninspired but pleasant Colonial Revival brick residence built in 1921. A wooden Corinthian portico is attached to the facade of the building, which is two stories high and five bays wide. Behind it is the headquarters of the Mississippi Catholic Diocese (21), a three-story Georgian Revival structure designed by James T. Canizaro of Jackson in 1946. The brick facade is divided into five equal bays, the center three of which are emphasized by a slightly projecting pavilion capped by a low pediment. Typically, windows are treated with flat arches and keystones, the corners are marked by brick quoins, and the entrance is contained in a segmental arched frontispiece. The most ambitious feature of this otherwise standardized design is the double flight of stairs which meet at the entrance. Facing both the Governor's Mansion to the east and the Federal Building to the south is the First National Bank Building (22), the final building within the architectural district. This insipid fourteen-story, reenforced concrete structure was finished in 1956. Although the original design called for the walls to be covered by a metal screen, this feature was not installed, and, as a result, the appearance is marred by the narrow slot-like windows on the east elevation and the disturbingly underscaled windows on the north and south elevations.

Despite the intrusion of buildings such as the First National Bank and Magnolia Federal Savings and Loan, the Smith Park Architectural District contains the greatest concentration of ambitious and successful designs in the capitol city. The monumentality and variety of this group of structures illustrates the full history of large scale building in Jackson.

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APR 2 3 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 4a

INVENTORY OF STRUCTURES LOCATED WITHIN THE SMITH PARK ARCHITECTURAL DISTRICT

245 - 401 E. Capitol Street

- 1. 245 E. Capitol Street. Post Office and Federal Building (1). 1932-34. Art Deco.
- Art Deco.
 2. 248 E. Capitol Street. First National Bank (21). 1956. "New Formalism."
- 3. 300 E. Capitol Street. Mississippi Governor's Mansion (6). 1839-41. Greek Revival.
- 4. 305 E. Capitol Street. St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral (2), 1903. Late Gothic Revival.
- 5. 315 E. Capitol Street. Lamar Life Building (3). 1924-5. Gothic Revival Skyscraper.
- 6. 329 E. Capitol Street. Mississippi Bank and Trust (4). 1924. Neoclassical Revival.
- 7. 400 E. Capitol Street. Old Emporium Building (7). c. 1900. Commercial Style.
- 8. 401 E. Capitol Street. McRae's Department Store (5). c. 1905. Sullivanesque.

116 - 305 N. Congress Street

- 9. 116 N. Congress Street. The Thompson Building (8). c. 1907. Colonial Revival.
- 10. 120 N. Congress Street. Banker's Trust Plaza (9). 1929. Art Deco.
- 11. 200 N. Congress Street. Magnolia Federal Savings and Loan (10). 1963.
- 12. 210 N. Congress Street. Spencer-Murphee Building (11). c. 1950.
- 13. 228 N. Congress Street. J. V. Hough House (12). 1912-1915. Colonial Revival.
- 14. 304 N. Congress Street. Galloway House (13). 1889. Second Empire.
- 15. 305 N. Congress Street. Galloway Memorial Methodist Church (14). 1913. Neo-classical Revival.

321 & 401 Mississippi Street

- 16. 321 Mississippi Street. The Methodist Building (15). 1957. Miesian.
- 17. 401 Mississippi Street. State Executive Building (16). 1924. Neoclassical Revival.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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NOV 2 4 1975

DATE ENTERED

APR 2 3 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 4b

123 - 304 N. West Street

- 18. 123 N. West Street. St. Peter's Rectory (20). 1921. Colonial Revival.
- 19. 203 N. West Street. St. Peter's Cathedral (19). 1897. Late Gothic Revival.
- 20. 259 N. West Street. Central High School (18). 1925. Jacobethan Revival.
- 21. 304 N. West Street. Consolidated American Life Insurance Building (17). 1844. Greek Revival.

Amite Street

22. 237 E. Amite Street. Mississippi Catholic Diocese Headquarters (21). 1946. Georgian Revival.

PERIOD	AR	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
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1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	Music	THEATER
X_1800-1899 X_1900-	COMMERCECOMMUNICATIONS	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENTINDUSTRY	PHILOSOPHYPOLITICS/GOVERNMENT	TRANSPORTATIONOTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In contrast with the surrounding area, the Smith Park Architectural District in downtown Jackson is characterized by a concentration of significant buildings that collectively illustrate a wide range of architectural styles, from the Greek Revival -- the earliest style available to local builders -- through the Gothic, Jacobethan and Neo-Classical revivals and including Art Deco and "Anonymous Commercial" of the twentieth century. The variety and design quality apparent in the district make it the single most important group of buildings within the city. With few exceptions, exact dates of construction and the names of architects and builders can be assigned to individual buildings. Although in the heart of the original section of Jackson, three-quarters of the structures date from the twentieth century, when information detailing new construction was more likely to be recorded in newspapers and other publications due to the public attention and interest which developed whenever costly and impressive commercial, governmental or re-

ligious buildings were being raised.

Located in the center of the district is Smith Park, the only 'public square' to be established in accordance with the original checkerboard plan drawn by Peter A. Van Dorn in 1822. According to William McCain's Story of Jackson (1:13), President Thomas Jefferson had suggested the system of alternative open spaces to Governor W. C. C. Claiborne as a convenient and salubrious design for a proposed town. Although Van Dorn's plat clearly shows a large number of such greens, only Smith Park in square 12N was actually reserved according to Jefferson's proposal. The block remained little more than a grazing area for animals which wandered freely throughout the city, until in 1884 a fence was erected to protect the space and give it a more park-like appearance. James Smith, a Scottish industrialist who had operated furniture and hardware stores in Jackson from 1834 until 1850, donated \$2,000 for the fence, and his name has been associated with the park ever since (Jackson, Miss. Daily News, February 26, 1950). Under the direction of the municipal landscape architect, recent "improvements" to the park include a small amphitheater and an artificial stream. Despite these changes, Smith Park continues to be enjoyed daily by many downtown workers and residents.

The oldest and most significant structure standing in the Smith Park Architectural District is the Governor's Mansion. Since its completion in 1841, the mansion has been occupied by thirty-seven consecutive first families and is the second oldest executive residence in America erected for a state governor. In addition to its association with the various Mississippi governors, the mansion has hosted many notable persons including Henry Clay, Vice President Richard M. Johnson, William Jennings Bryan, Will Rogers, Douglas MacArthur and Presidents

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES		
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10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA		
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 20 UTM REFERENCES		
A 1.5 7 6.5 4.2.0 3.5 7.7 2.8.0 B 1.5 7 5 .5 4.2.5 3 5 7.6 8.2 0 ZONE EASTING NORTHING C 1.5 7 6.5 0.5.0 3.5 7.6 8.1.0 D 1.5 7 6.5 0.4.0 3.5 7.7 2.7.0 VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION		
The western boundary of the Smith Park Architectural District begins 225 feet west of N. West Street at the southwest corner of the Post Office and Federal Building property. From this point it travels north along the Post Office property, diagonally crosses E. Capitol Street to the southwest corner of the First National Bank property 80 feet west of N. West Street. The boundary then follows the western property line of the First National Bank Building until it reaches E. Amite Street (continued) LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES		
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE		
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE		
TI FORM PREPARED BY NAME/TITLE William C. Allen, Architectural Historian ORGANIZATION DATE		
Mississippi Department of Archives and History November, 1975 TELEPHONE		
P. O. Box 571 (601) 354-6218		
Jackson State Mississippi 39205		
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION		
THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:		
NATIONAL STATE LOCAL _X		
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.		
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE White R. Willian		
State Historic Preservation Officer DATE November 14, 1975		
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY SINCOUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE DATE		
DIRECTOR DEFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION		

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APR 2 3 1976

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 5

W. H. Taft, Theodore Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy. Beyond its historical associations, the mansion is considered to be the finest work in the domestic Greek Revival style by Williams Nichols, a native of Bath, England, who designed prominent public and private buildings in North Carolina, Alabama, and Mississippi (Governor's Mansion, National Historic Landmark Nomination Form, National Park Service, March 20, 1975). Although the mansion has always been a prominent example of Greek Revival architecture, its importance to Jackson has increased with the wholesale destruction of other structures of that style at the hands of commercial developers.

Another valuable survival in this district of the once common Greek Revival is the Consolidated American Life Insurance Building, originally erected for the congregation of the First Baptist Church but occupied by a commercial concern since 1959. Sold by the Baptist congregation in 1893, the structure has functioned as a boarding house, high school, business college and life insurance office at various times during its history. Remarkably, the integrity of the exterior has been largely preserved in spite of its diverse uses.

Three locally significant religious structures are located within the district. St. Peter's Catholic Co-Cathedral, whose congregation was organized in 1846, has occupied its present site on North West Street since 1897. Founded with a congregation of twelve communicants in 1844, St. Andrews Episcopal Cathedral now occupies its third site. Both structures were designed by P. H. Weathers of Jackson and are considered to be locally significant expressions of the late Gothic Revival style popular at the beginning of the twentieth century. The Galloway Memorial Methodist Church, occupied by the oldest congregation in the city, is a valuable example of the Neo-Classical Revival style. Organized in 1836, the Methodist congregation paid fifty dollars for the lot in 1838, one year after the Mississippi legislature authorized "the sale of certain pieces of ground for the erection of churches in the city of Jackson . . . " (Hamilton, p. 32). The present structure, constructed between 1913 and 1915, is the third to be built on the lot, which is the oldest site in Jackson to be occupied continuously by a religious de-The building was dedicated to the memory of Charles Betts Galloway (1849-1909) of Jackson, who in 1886 at the age of thirty-six became the youngest bishop theretofore elected in the Methodist Church, South. Galloway was active in foreign missionary work, served as editor of the influential New Orleans Christian Advocate and authored many books on religion, history and temperance. From 1889 until his death, Galloway lived across from the church in the Second Empire frame dwelling still occupied by his descendants.

Because they serve rather ordinary functions, the majority of large commercial buildings within the district are significant solely for architectural excellence. Several locally and regionally significant architects have contributed to the quality of design that distinguishes the district. The architect of the Galloway Methodist Church, Reuben H. Hunt (1862-1937) of Chattanooga, Tennessee, (continued)

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 2 4 1975

PAGE 6

DATE ENTERED

APR 2 3 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

was an important master of ecclesiastical design whose churches were built in many cities throughout the south. In addition to religious buildings, Hunt designed several monumental educational structures for the University of Mississippi, Mississippi State University and the University of Southern Mississippi (Withey, p. 310). Regionally significant architect Philip T. Mayre (1872-1935) of Atlanta, Georgia, designed the Mississippi Bank and Trust Building, one of the district's finest structures. Included among Mayre's other important works are the Virginia State Penitentiary at Richmond, the Florida Supreme Court House at Tallahassee, and the Civil Court Building at New Orleans (Withey, p. 395). Of the Jackson-based architects whose commercial buildings enhance the significance of the district, Noah Webster Overstreet (1888-1973) is the most prominent. In the course of his fifty-seven-year practice, Overstreet completed approximately 650 projects (Jackson Daily News, October 13, 1973), including the Banker's Trust Plaza, the State Executive Building and the north wing of Galloway Methodist Church. In addition to his design activities, Overstreet was instrumental in the creation of the Mississippi Architect License Law, which governs that profession in the state (McCain 2:152).

Architectural intrusions in the district are identified as the Magnolia Federal Savings and Loan Building and the First National Bank, neither of which attempts to relate to the scale, texture, or articulation of neighboring buildings. The unity and rhythm of the district is also disrupted by two major parking lots. These regrettable "space leaks" are located between the Magnolia Federal Savings and Loan Building and the Hough House on North Congress Street and north of St. Peter's Co-Cathedral on North West Street. Although these intrusions fail to overshadow the total architectural merit of the district, future incompatible development could isolate or destroy the significant structures concentrated within the district.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 2 4 1975

DATE ENTERED

APR 2 3 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 7

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Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 2 4 1975

DATE ENTERED

PAGE 8

APR 2 3 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

where it diagonally crosses the street to join the southwest corner of the St. Peter's Co-Cathedral property. From this point it continues north 271 feet to intersect with the Central High School property. The boundary then turns west along the southern property line of Central High School until it reaches N. Lamar Street where it turns north along the western boundary of the school. From the northwest corner of the Central High School property, the boundary travels east 450 feet to N. West Street, crosses N. West Street, and continues 160 feet east, along the northern perimeter of the Consolidated Life Insurance Company and Galloway Methodist Church properties. The boundary then runs north 160 feet to Mississippi Street then turns east to the northeast corner of the State Executive Building property. From this point it continues south along the eastern boundary of the State Executive Building, the Boone lot, the Galloway Methodist Church lot, and the E. H. Galloway lot until it reaches Yazoo Street where it diagonally crosses the street to the northeast corner of the Hough House property. The line follows the eastern boundaries of the Hough House and the neighboring parking lot for 160 feet, then turns west for 80 feet. From this point it turns south along the eastern property line of the Magnolia Federal Savings and Loan building; crosses E. Amite Street; and continues south along eastern property lines of the Banker's Trust Plaza, Thompson Building and Old Emporium Building; it crosses E. Capitol Street and runs to the southeast corner of the McRae's Department store property. The boundary then turns west along the southern property line of McRae's Department Store; crosses S. Congress Street; follows the southern lines of the Mississippi Bank and Trust property, the Lamar Life Building and St. Andrews Episcopal Cathedral before crossing S. West Street. At this point the district boundary follows the southern property line of the Post Office and Federal Building to the place of beginning.

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Page					
Smith Park Architectural District	Hinds County, MISSISSIPPI				
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVAL	Delow Been 10/29/93				